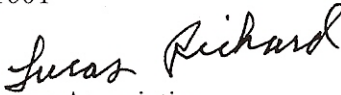


April 30, 2008

To: Commissioner Steve Troxler
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2 W. Edenton Street
1001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1001

From: Lucas Richard, President 
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
206 East 19th Street
Lumberton, North Carolina 28358

Subject: Transfer of Research Stations from NCDA&CS to N C State University

North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association support efforts that will ensure North Carolina Farmers have research lands for the future of Agriculture in our state. I am sure there are ways to improve efficiency and operations of all of our farms in North Carolina. The recent action by the Legislature Performance Review Division and key leadership make us question where will we be in twenty years if we don't make our voice heard concerning closing some of the research stations and transfer management to NCSU. Over the past few years we have lost a large amount of farmland to urbanization in the state. The legislature set aside \$100 million for retaining open farmland in our state. Now the proposal is that we sell research land, timberland, and rearrange our present management structure. Our association is on record as being against this process. Any station lands that are closed needs to go into the farmland trust program. If we remove research away from the Department of Agriculture it will be the beginning for removing other areas of department. If the timberland that is part of the research stations is removed a vital part of those farms will be gone not only for revenue but also trees provide oxygen that offsets carbon that is given off by more cars/traffic from the urbanization.

There are ways to raise funds for research and expansion in our state besides taking foundation blocks away from our biggest industry-Agriculture, a \$62.5 billion part of our economy. We must keep our farmers in business if we want our food grown here as opposed to overseas. We need to put better business practices in state government that if we don't have money we don't spend it. Once we have sold land or lost valuable research land we can't get it back. Again, North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association is against the proposal by the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee to transfer and/or sell research farms that are presently being managed by NCDA&CS.